

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 171120Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3029

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

SECDEF

CJCS

COMUSSAG

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 9908

EXDIS

E.O/ 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CB

SUBJECT: RECRUTIMENT OF KHMER KROM

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 9634

(B) STATE 168116

(C) PHNOM PENH 8333

(D) STATE 159126

1. WE BELIEVE THAT, CONCURRENTLY WITH OUR DRIVE (OUTLINED REF A) TO GET THE GKR TO MOBILIZE SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER MANPOWER FROM DOMESTIC SOURCES FOR FANK BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE DRY SEASON IN DECEMBER, A FURTHER GKR EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE WITH GVN TO FACILITATE RECRUITMENT OF KHMER KROM IN SVN. WE CONSIDER THAT THE URGENCY OF GETTING FANK'S GENERAL RESERVE (I.E. MAIN FORCES) UP TO FULL COMBAT STRENGTH BEFORE THE ONSET OF THE ENEMY'S ALREADY-ANNOUNCED DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE AGAINST PHNOM PENH IS SO GREAT THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH THE KHMER KROM RECRUITMENT PROPOSAL EVEN AT THE RISK OF REBUFF BY THIEU. WE WOULD HOPE TO MAKE THE PROJECT LESS UNPALATABLE

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TO THE GVN BY MODIFYING THE PROPOSAL AND THE MODALITIES OF PRESENTATION WITH A VIEW TO OVERCOMING OBJECTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED UP TO THIS POINT BY THE GVN SIDE.

2. PLAN WE PROPOSE IS FOLLOWING:

A. AT OUT SUGGESTION, LON NOL TO SEND A LETTER TO THIEU THROUGH GKR AMBASSADOR POK SAM AN, OUTLINING THE PROPOSAL TO RECRUIT KHMER KROM IN SVN.

B. LETTER WOULD CALL FOR GKR TO SEND RECRUITING TEAM OF APPROXIMATELY TWENTY KHMER KROM MILITARY PERSONNEL IN MUFTI, LED BY A PRESTIGIOUS KHMER KROM OFFICER (FYI. PERSONNEL WOULD PROBABLY BE TAKEN FROM THE SECOND AND SEVENTH FANK DIVISIONS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE COMMANDED BY KHMER KROM BRIGADIERS AND CONTAIN CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS OF KHMER KROM OFFICERS AND MEN.)

C. WITH ARVN FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE, FANK TEAM WOULD ENDEAVOR TO RECRUIT 1,000 HMER KROM IN THE DELTA.

D. GKR WOULD PROVIDE A REVOLVING FUND OF ONE MILLION RIELS FOR STAGING EXPENDITURES IN SVN.

E. ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIRLIFT SVN TO REAM (CAMBODIA) TO BE WORKED OUT (SEE REF B).

F. GKR WOULD PAY ENLISTMENT BONUS TO RECRUITS ON ARRIVAL AT REAM (AMOUNT TO BE AGREED). THE REAM TRAINING CENTER WOULD BE PROVIDED 500,000 RIELS.

G. FOUR WEEKS OF INFANTRY TRAINING AT REAM TRAINING CENTER, CAPACITY 2,000.

H. RECRUITS WILL BE TRAINED IN PACKETS OF 50 MEN AND REASSIGNED BY PACKET TO THE SECOND OR THE SEVENTH DIVISION ON COMPLETION OF TRAINING.

I. NO SPECIAL PROVISION FOR FAMILIES; REAM CANNOT ACCOMMODATE THEM. FAMILIES COULD BE BROUGHT TO CAMBODIA AT INDIVIDUAL'S DISCRETION AND EXPENSE AFTER COMPLETION OF TRAINING. HOWEVER, RECRUITMENT EMPHASIS IS TO BE ON BACHELORS.

3. EXCEPT FOR SUBSTITUTION OF GKR AMBASSADOR AND A KHMER KROM OFFICER FOR SON NGOC THANH, LON NOL HAS ALREADY APPROVED PROVISIONS OF PLAN OUTLINED ABOVE (SEE REF C).

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4. WE REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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